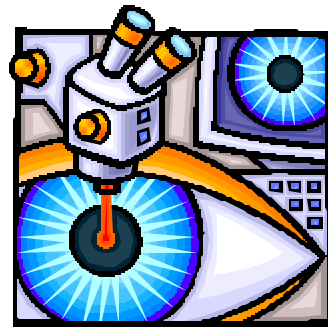


Laser Safety

Lasers are classified to describe the capabilities of a laser system to produce injury to personnel. This classification rates from Class I lasers (no harm) to Class IV lasers (strong enough to cut steel). Manufacturers are required to label Class II, III and IV lasers with a warning label which will also have the laser's classification printed on it.

Class I lasers are low powered devices that are considered safe from all potential hazards. Some examples of Class I lasers are: laser printers, CD players, CD ROM devices and geological surveying equipment. No individual, regardless of exposure conditions to the eyes or skin, should receive an injury from a Class I laser.



Class II lasers are low power, visible light lasers that could possibly cause damage to a person's eyes. Some examples of Class II laser use are: laser pointers, aiming devices and range finding equipment. If class II laser beams are directly viewed for long periods of time, (i.e. > 15 minutes), damage to the eyes could result.

Class III lasers are continuous wave, intermediate power devices. Some examples of Class III laser uses are the same as Class II lasers with the most popular uses being laser pointers and laser scanners. Direct viewing of the Class III laser beam could be hazardous to the eyes. *Do not* view a Class III laser beam directly. Do not point a Class III laser beam into another person's eyes.



Class IV lasers are high power devices. Some examples of Class IV laser use are surgery, research, drilling, cutting, welding, and micro machining. The direct beam and diffuse reflections from Class IV lasers are hazardous to the eyes and skin. Much greater controls are required to ensure the safe operation of this class of laser devices. Whenever occupying a laser-controlled area, wear the proper eye protection. Realize the dangers involved in the use of Class IV lasers and please use common sense.

Laser use in the military has become more common and military personnel are being injured. Learn to do's and don't of Laser Safety and avoid becoming the next casualty.

Remember that you only get blinded once, so



Protect your eyes.

**233rd
Safety
Gram**

"Focusing on Laser Safety and the prevention of eye injury"
233rd Base Support Battalion Safety Office
YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO SAFETY